

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND PENALTIES IN FEDERAL CRIMINAL CASES

Amount Enclosed: _____

Case Number: _____

Defendant's Name: _____



Understanding the benefits for defendants who are “paid in full”

All federal criminal cases that result in a guilty plea or conviction following trial involve the imposition of a special assessment against the defendant at the time of sentencing. This is a type of fine that the Court is required to impose.

In most cases this assessment is \$100 per count of conviction. This assessment is due at the time of the defendant's sentencing hearing.

There are numerous consequences for a defendant who is unable, or unwilling, to pay financial obligations, such as the special assessment, restitution, or fines, imposed by the Court. These consequences include:

● Placement in the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Financial Responsibility Program. If a defendant refuses to participate in this program, or fails to follow the Program's directives, he or she may:

- ◆ be denied furloughs
- ◆ receive limited opportunities for higher paying employment within the BOP
- ◆ be denied release gratuities upon discharge from prison
- ◆ receive less preferential treatment in halfway house placement,

affecting the ability to earn up to one year off his or her sentence for completing the Drug Treatment Program

- ◆ be ineligible for preferred housing within the BOP
- ◆ have monthly commissary spending capped
- ◆ lose preferential job placement, including the denial of outside detail work assignments or UNICOR jobs

● A defendant who is released from prison without having paid his or her financial obligations faces the following possibilities until the special assessment, fines, and restitution are paid in full:

- ◆ garnishment of wages, retirement accounts, and bank accounts
- ◆ seizure of state and/or federal tax refunds
- ◆ financial investigations and inquiries, including being brought before the court for a Debtor's Exam
- ◆ have supervised release or probation revoked or extended until the financial obligations are met
- ◆ travel restrictions
- ◆ restrictions on the ability to

obtain new credit cards or charge accounts

- ◆ liens placed on real and personal property, including vehicles

Many defendants, particularly those who are in custody, have difficulty paying the special assessment, as well as fines and restitution, without the help of loved ones, relatives, friends, and associates.

If you would like to assist a defendant with payment of his or her financial obligations, either by loaning or gifting money, you may do so by mailing a check or money order to:

**U.S. District Clerk of Court
750 Missouri Avenue
East St. Louis, IL 62201**

You may also personally deliver cash, checks, or money orders to the Clerk of Court. The Clerk of Court is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

You may contribute a few dollars, or pay the obligation in full. If you wish to assist a defendant in this way, please use the attached coupon.